

originally used in Oregon and adapted them so they could be used on the Colorado. Mr. Litton sold the business in 1990, but continued to raft the Grand Canyon. Just three years ago he broke his own record as the oldest person to run the canyon in a dory.

From 1954–1968 Mr. Litton was the editor of *Sunset Magazine*. His cover story “The Redwood Country” in 1960 launched a movement that eventually led to the establishment of Redwood National Park. As a life-long pilot, Mr. Litton flew then Governor Edmund “Pat” Brown over the redwoods in Northern California to convince him not to sign a bill that would extend a freeway through the forest. It worked.

Mr. Litton continues to fight for the redwoods. He is deeply engaged in a campaign to stop logging in the Sequoia National Forest and the Giant Sequoia Monument.

Surpassing Mr. Litton’s love for the environment is only his love for his wife of 69 years, Esther.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor Martin Litton who has kept some of the most beautiful places in America pristine and in existence for all of us to admire and enjoy. His tenacious spirit serves as an inspiration to all of us.

CONGRATULATING THE SAIPAN SOUTHERN HIGH SCHOOL MANTA RAY BAND’S OLYMPIC PERFORMANCE

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 31, 2012

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, here is a story to make us all cheer:

46 high school musicians from America’s smallest insular area raise a quarter of a million dollars to go to London and perform during the Olympics—where they win a silver medal.

That is the story of the Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray Concert Band, who played their hearts out at the London Celebration Music Festival this week in Central Hall Westminster, and came away with silver.

They played throughout the 2012 Summer Olympics: at the main bandstand in Olympic Park, in a torch ceremony in Central London, at storied Westminster Abbey, and at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre nearby Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament.

As they played, we all cheered in the Northern Mariana Islands. Because the Manta Rays represent us all. We are the only U.S. insular area that did not send athletes to London. We sent our students. We sent musicians. And they were awarded silver.

It took silver to send them there. It took bake sales, rummage sales, garage sales, a bowling tournament, tree plantings, car washes, a radio telethon, lunches, and raffles. It took businesses, government, civic organizations, and individual donors—too many to list by name all chipping in to make this possible for the 46 Manta Rays and their 14 chaperones. It seemed an impossible goal for a community of barely fifty thousand, struggling economically, to raise two hundred and fifty thousand dollars. But we did.

Because these Manta Ray musicians dared us to dream—as they have before. They proved to us that with “faith, effort, and determination,” and, of course, the hours of individual diligence, closing out the world, playing scales, practicing their parts, over and over again, that even the seemingly impossible can come to be.

Ten years ago there was no high school band in our islands. Most families in the Marianas could not even afford to buy a band instrument. Then, through the vision of teacher Will DeWitt and the support of the leadership at Saipan Southern High School and the Northern Marianas Public School System a seed was planted. The dream began to grow.

Students begged or borrowed instruments and held them for the first time. They began to make music.

How quickly they learned. They started to win regional competitions in Guam. They gained notice and were invited to perform during the Beijing Olympics four years ago.

They were even called to play at Carnegie Hall, earning second place in the New York International Music Competition.

Then, last year, the invitation came to the 2012 Summer Olympics. And this week the silver medal in London.

Perhaps, nothing better demonstrates how much the Northern Marianas believes in its young people than this bake-sale effort to send the Manta Ray Concert Band to the 2012 Olympics.

Perhaps, nothing better demonstrates how much our young people believe in themselves and in their future than that they took on this impossible, improbable goal—and succeeded.

So, today, we say, “Congratulations, Manta Rays!”

And we say, “Thank you.” Thank you for doing your community proud. Thank you for rewarding our faith in you.

Thank you for confirming that there is no better place to put our hope and hard work than helping in the growth and development of our children.

Here is a story we can all love and applaud: a story of dedicated teachers and students who were inspired to do something they had never done before, something that on its face was “impossible.” This is a story of what makes any of us great: stepping beyond what we imagine we can do, bringing to life a new and unimaginable world.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF NICK’S RESTAURANT

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 31, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Gust family that has owned and operated Nick’s Restaurant in Pacifica for 85 years and has made significant contributions to the community. It is undisputed among locals—and some out of towners in the know—that Nick’s serves the best crab sandwich on the coast.

Nick’s 85th Anniversary Bash will go on all week and it reflects the generosity and love of music and food of every member of the family: Charles, Anastasia, Nick, Lorraine, Kathy, Chuck and Lena.

Located at Rockaway Beach in Pacifica, Nick’s has become a destination for visitors drawn by the restaurant’s dramatic setting right on the beach with breakers crashing against boulders, pelicans gliding through the salty air, surfers catching waves and of course, the fabulous food.

The original Gust family member to come to Rockaway Beach was Stalios Karagianis. He left Macedonia, Greece in 1907, arrived in New York by ship and then traveled across the United States to San Francisco. He worked a variety of jobs, including one with the Ocean Shore Railroad which first brought him to the coast. While working as a contractor, Karagianis sent for his wife, Anastasia, to join him. They bought a house in Daly City and had three daughters and a son. In 1927, Karagianis returned to the coast and bought a piece of property on the edge of Rockaway Beach. He opened a small shack selling sandwiches, peanuts and candy to fishermen.

After losing his business to fire twice and rebuilding for the third time, Karagianis and his family decided to move into the business and make it their home to prevent another fire.

Karagianis faced a challenge. Over and over he was told that his name was too difficult to pronounce, so he changed it to Charlie Gust.

After 20 years of running the restaurant, Charlie eventually handed the reins to his son Nick and daughter-in-law Lorraine who continued the family tradition of always improving and expanding the business. Nick and Lorraine turned Nick’s into one of the most unique and pleasant dining spots drawing visitors from all over the world to this beautiful cove on the Pacific coast. Nick served as mayor of Pacifica for four terms and on the city council for ten years ruling the city from the restaurant and bar at Nick’s.

Now Nick’s is in the hands of the third generation of Gusts. Nick’s son Chuck has been running the restaurant for the last 10 years and daughter Lena is working there as well.

What has not changed over the last 85 years is the welcoming atmosphere, the hospitality of the Gust family and the great food. May Nick’s serve its famous crab sandwich for the next 85 years!

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor the Gust family for being an integral part of Pacifica and providing an endless supply of comfort, sustenance and community service. As a long-time friend of the family I am proud and grateful for their many contributions to the vitality and folklore of Pacifica.

RECOGNIZING WASHINGTON STATE ATHLETES COMPETING IN THE 2012 SUMMER OLYMPICS

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 31, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Aretha Thurmond, Ariana Kukors, Courtney Thompson, and Tejay van Garderen from the State of Washington for representing the United States and competing in the 2012 Summer Olympic Games in London.

The 2012 Games will be Aretha Thurmond’s fourth appearance at the Olympic Games

when she competes in the discus throw. She began throwing discus in high school and competed in her first Olympic games at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, Georgia, just after finishing her sophomore year at the University of Washington. She went on to participate in the 2004 Athens Games and 2008 Beijing Games. Aretha has remained one of the top American discus throwers for over a decade.

Ariana Kukors will be making her Olympic debut and participating in the 200M Individual Medley. Shortly after the 2008 Olympic Trials, Ariana continued to train hard and won the 200M Individual Medley at the 2009 World Championships, setting a world-record of 2 minutes, 6.15 seconds.

Courtney Thompson will also make her Olympic debut in London as backup setter for the United States Women's Volleyball Team. Her professional career began when she joined the national team in 2007 and competed in the 2007 and 2009 Federation Internationale de Volleyball World Grand Prix tournaments. Her strong appearance in the 2012 Grand Prix grabbed the attention of many, which led her to this year's Olympic Games. Courtney and the women's volleyball team hopes to improve upon the silver medal they won at the 2008 Beijing Games.

Tejay van Garderen has been named one of the most talented cyclists in America and will compete in this summer's Olympic Games. He was born in Tacoma, Washington and spent the majority of his early years living and cycling in Europe. During his rookie years, he signed with HTC Highroad, which was at the time was the world's top cycling team. Tejay finished third overall in the 2010 Criterium du Dauphine Libre and made his very first appearance at the Tour de France in 2011. He has also competed in the Tour de California and in Colorado's inaugural Pro Cycling Challenge.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I commend these athletes from the State of Washington for their dedication and honor all Olympians taking part in the 2012 Summer Games.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE YEAR OF
SERVICE OF MILLBRAE LION
CLUB PRESIDENT RON FREDIANI

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Millbrae Lion Club President Ron Frediani upon the completion of his year of service as President of the Millbrae Lions Club. This past year has been one of uncommon accomplishment by the Millbrae Lions, and Lion Ron is a key reason for this year's success.

The Lions worked with other community groups on more than one dozen community events. For example, under Ron Frediani's leadership, the Millbrae Lions were involved in the annual 4th of July barbeque for the Millbrae Historical Society, the collection of gently used books for the Friends of the Millbrae Library, helped to raise funds for a local church, joined with the Millbrae Rotary Club in the Relay for Life event, and ensured that Halloween celebrations continued despite city budget constraints.

The Millbrae Lions, under President Ron Frediani's leadership has been a major source of funding for charity throughout this tight-knit community. For example, the club provides American flags for the city's elementary schools and fingerprints all incoming kindergarteners. President Frediani and his club volunteers also honored all of the volunteers involved in youth baseball, both at dinner and during an annual pancake breakfast. These community events cannot happen without leaders such as Ron Frediani and his able board members who ensure that the Lions remain effective within their community.

Mr. Speaker, it has been my honor to speak before the youth group sponsored by the Millbrae Lions, the Millbrae Leos Club. At this event, I was thrilled to take questions from teens with active minds and a desire to serve their community. Youth leadership leads to community leadership as adults, and President Frediani has been a big part of the success of this group, ensuring that it adheres to boundary and safety rules.

A key duty of any club President is to arrange for speakers at regular meetings. President Frediani was cited by his club as being particularly adept at arranging for great speakers, which also helps build club membership and provides an educational opportunity for the broader community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor Millbrae Lions Club President Ron Frediani upon the completion of his year of service to the community of Millbrae. There are many who are called into service involuntarily, but it takes a star to volunteer and then to be a beacon for others to follow. President Ron Frediani is such a star, and the Millbrae Lions Club and the entire community have benefited from his service.

CELEBRATING THE 170TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF OLD ST. MARY'S
CHURCH

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2012

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the oldest standing church in Cincinnati, which is appropriately named Old St. Mary's.

The church, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was dedicated to God 170 years ago this month, on July 3, 1842.

It was originally called St. Marien Kirche. Many of the parishioners were German immigrants who lived northwest of the Miami & Erie Canal, in a neighborhood called Over-the-Rhine.

Parishioners who were master craftsmen built the church at the intersection of 13th and Clay streets. The cornerstone was laid on March 25, 1841—the Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The clock tower of Old St. Mary's rises 170 feet, and it is the oldest in Cincinnati. The interior features hand-carved wooden statues, marvelous stained glass, and magnificent oil paintings, making the church one of the most beautiful in the city.

My parents, Jeannette and Gus Hoffman, often attended worship services at Old St. Mary's. Peter Schmidt and I were married

there, and our daughter, Emilie, was baptized there.

Today, Over-the-Rhine is a thriving multicultural neighborhood, and Old St. Mary's has embraced this diversity. On March 25, 1988, parishioners established the Mary Magdalen House to help the poor and homeless. This nonprofit provides a place for needy people to shower, shave, and have their clothes laundered.

In 2001, to help disadvantaged youths become community leaders, the pastor of Old St. Mary's opened the St. Peter Claver Latin School for Boys. The late Father Albert Lauer envisioned the school as the cornerstone for renewal of the neighborhood. St. Peter Claver was officially recognized this month as the 114th Catholic school of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

Mr. Speaker, Cincinnatians appreciate their city's history and their own heritage. Many Catholics of German ancestry who live in distant neighborhoods travel to Over-the-Rhine to worship at Old St. Mary's. Sunday Mass is still offered in German—as well as in Latin and English.

Today, I want to celebrate the 170th anniversary of Old St. Mary's. I applaud the Cincinnatians who have ensured that this landmark remains relevant to Over-the-Rhine. It is my hope that the church will continue to uplift the city's residents—in body and soul.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 25TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF PENINSULA FAM-
ILY SERVICE'S SENIOR PEER
COUNSELING PROGRAM

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 25th Anniversary of a program in San Mateo County that has eliminated loneliness and provided support, guidance and joy for thousands of seniors.

Peninsula Family Service's Senior Peer Counseling is an outstanding example of how to best help seniors with transitions and life changes, health concerns, mobility issue, care provider questions and grief. A senior in need is paired up with a trained volunteer of a similar age, experience, values, wisdom and culture. In all of its work, Peninsula Family Service empowers families and individuals to become or remain self-sufficient and to be contributing members of our community.

Senior Peer Counseling was started in 1987 by Delia McGrath as part of the San Mateo County Behavioral Health and Recovery Program. The county recognized a need to provide an integrated and coherent set of services for older adults that would ensure they could live in the community as long as possible while maintaining their independence, connection and high quality of life. Delia McGrath was quickly joined by Carol Blomberger, a skilled art therapist, and the two set the groundwork for Senior Peer Counseling. They taught future counselors life skills that prepared them to help seniors in very difficult situations. Delia McGrath pointed out that the most important skill was listening; it built the foundation for trust and a peer relationship.